



# **RHODE ISLAND HOW TO REGISTER AND VOTE 2012**

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**A Guide for Voters**



# Bring ID when you vote

The state's new Voter ID law requires poll workers to ask you for ID when you vote. Voter ID strengthens the public's faith in the integrity of our elections by enabling poll workers to match a voter's name to their face.

## **Acceptable Photo IDs include:**

IDs must be valid and cannot have expired, but they do not need your address

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1) RI driver's license or state ID | 4) RI or federal government-issued ID card |
| 2) Employee ID card                | 5) U.S. passport                           |
| 3) College ID                      | 6) RIPTA bus pass                          |

## **Acceptable non-Photo IDs for 2012 and 2013 include:**

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1) Social Security card                             | 3) Birth certificate |
| 2) Medicare or other government-issued medical card |                      |

## **Don't have an acceptable Photo ID?**

We will provide free IDs to voters who do not already have an acceptable Photo ID.

## **Protecting your vote**

No eligible voter will be turned away at the polls. Voters who do not bring ID to the polls can vote using a standard provisional ballot, which will be counted if the signature they give at the polling place matches the signature on their voter registration card.

Beginning in 2014, only Photo IDs will be accepted at the polls

Mail ballots do not require Voter ID.

**Get the complete list of acceptable IDs and learn  
how to obtain a free Voter ID at 222-2340 or [sos.ri.gov](http://sos.ri.gov).**



**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**  
***Office of the Secretary of State***

***A. Ralph Mollis***  
***Secretary of State***

Dear Fellow Rhode Islander:

As Secretary of State, I am committed to making it easier to vote. This guidebook includes advice about registering to vote, updating your voter registration if you have moved or changed your name since the last time you voted and voting at the polls as well as contact information for the state Board of Elections and the board of canvassers in every city and town. There are even details and advice about the state's new Voter ID requirements.

In keeping with my pledge to use technology to improve Rhode Islanders' access to their government, the guide is posted on our website at [www.sos.ri.gov/elections/forms](http://www.sos.ri.gov/elections/forms), where it is available 24/7.

This strategy not only saves Rhode Islanders the cost of printing thousands of copies of the guide, it make it easy for them to share links to the guide with their friends and family. Of course, we will provide hardcopies upon request.

Two other useful guides are also posted on-line. Election Calendar 2012 details the specific filing deadlines and requirements for the current election cycle. How to Run for Office includes a detailed list of crucial deadlines as well as thorough explanations of the steps those seeking to run for office in Rhode Island must take.

Government belongs to the people. The more they know, the better they will be served. If you need additional information, please contact our Elections Division at 401-222-2340, TTY 711 or [elections@sos.ri.gov](mailto:elections@sos.ri.gov)

Sincerely,

A. Ralph Mollis  
Secretary of State



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# REGISTERING TO VOTE IN RHODE ISLAND

## Why do I need to register to vote?

Election officials must know a few things about you, such as your eligibility to vote and where you live, before you appear to vote on Election Day. Your advance voter registration shows poll workers on Election Day that you are a qualified voter and ensures that you get to vote on all the elections and ballot questions that affect you.

## Who may register to vote in Rhode Island?

You may register to vote if you are:

- › a citizen of the United States,
- › a resident of the Rhode Island city or town where you wish to vote, and
- › at least 16 years of age. You must be at least 18 years of age to vote.  
\*If you are a convicted felon and not in prison and you are a US citizen at least 18 years of age on election day, you may restore your right to vote by notifying your local board of canvassers in writing that you have completed your prison sentence or by submitting a new voter registration form.

## Who may not register to vote?

You may not register to vote if you are:

- › legally declared mentally incapable by a court, or
- › a convicted felon still in prison. Once out of prison, the right to vote is restored by either notifying your local board of canvassers in writing or by submitting a new registration form.

## Who can cast a vote in a Rhode Island election?

Any registered voter may vote, so long as he or she has registered to vote at least 30 days prior to the primary or election in which they wish to vote.

## When must I register?

To vote in:		You must register by:
September 11, 2012	Primary	August 12, 2012
November 6, 2012	Election Day	October 7, 2012

## **Is it possible to register and vote on Election Day?**

Yes, but you will not be able to vote in most elections. You may register to vote and vote on Election Day, but only at the site designated by your local board of canvassers. You will be allowed to vote only for the offices of President and Vice President, not in state, local or other federal races.

## **Will I ever need to register again?**

Registration is permanent and generally does not need to be renewed as long as you live at the same address.

You will need to register again if:

- › You change your name,
- › You change your address within your city or town,
- › You move to another city or town, or
- › You have been removed from the voting list for any reason.

## **How do I register or update my registration?**

To register to vote, you must complete a voter registration form. That form must be received by an authorized public official of your city or town or the State of Rhode Island.

You may use either the Rhode Island Voter Registration Form or you may use the National Voter Registration Form.

You may register in person or by mail. You may also register with the help of another person who delivers the form to an authorized official for you.

## **Where do I register to vote or file a change of address?**

You may obtain your registration form and register to vote in person at many different places, including offices you might visit to conduct other business. You may register at:

- › The local board of canvassers in your city or town. These offices are usually open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Some registrars offer registrations at other times and places in the community. See page 23 for your local board of canvassers' address and telephone number.
- › Any office of the Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles. You may register to vote when you apply for a driver's license, license renewal or state ID card.
- › Agencies providing public assistance, such as the Department of Human Services.
- › State-funded programs assisting people with disabilities.
- › Armed forces recruiting offices.

Contact the Board of Elections at 401-222-2345 for a complete list of agencies where you may register or change your address.



## What information will I need to provide to complete my registration?

When you register to vote you must give your

- › name,
- › complete address,
- › date of birth, and
- › choice of political party affiliation, if any.

You must also state on the registration form that you:

- › are a U.S. citizen, and
- › are at least 16 years of age. You must be at least 18 years of age to vote.

If you are a **first-time mail registrant in RI or a first time registrant through a third party**, you must provide your valid RI driver's license or valid state ID number issued by the RI Division of Motor Vehicles. If you do not have a valid RI driver's license or state ID number, you must provide the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you do not have a driver's license, state ID or Social Security number, or if these numbers cannot be verified, or if you fail to complete this item on the registration form, you will be required to present one of the forms of identification listed on pages 4 and 5 at the time of registration, prior to voting or at the time of voting.

When you sign the registration, you are taking an oath that you meet these voter qualification requirements. Witnesses are not needed unless you need assistance in filling out the registration form.

## Can I register by mail?

Yes. You may mail a completed Rhode Island Voter Registration form or a National Voter Registration form to your local board of canvassers at the address shown on page 23 of this booklet. Federal and state forms are equally acceptable in Rhode Island.

## Get state registration forms at:

- › All local boards of canvassers throughout Rhode Island (see address list on page 23).
- › Board of Elections, 50 Branch Ave, Providence.
- › The Offices of the Secretary of State located at the State House in Room 38, or at 148 W. River St., or 337 Westminster Street, Providence.
- › Online at: [www.sos.ri.gov/elections](http://www.sos.ri.gov/elections). Click on the "Forms and Publications" link.
- › You can also find the National Voter Registration Form online at: [www.sos.ri.gov/elections](http://www.sos.ri.gov/elections). Click on the "Forms and Publications" link.

## Will I need any documents to register?

If you are a first-time mail registrant in RI or a first time registrant through a third party, and do not provide a RI driver's license, state ID or Social Security number, you must provide one of the following identifications:

A copy of a current and valid photo identification provided by a third party in the ordinary course of business that includes the name and photograph of the individual presenting it. Examples of photo identification include, but are not limited to:

- › Driver's license or identification card of any state;
- › U.S. Passport;
- › Rhode Island voter ID card;
- › Employee identification card;
- › Identification card provided by a commercial establishment;
- › Credit or debit card;
- › Military identification card;
- › Student identification card;
- › Health club identification card;
- › Insurance plan identification card;
- › Public housing identification card;

or a copy of any of the following documents, provided that the document includes the name and current address of the individual presenting it, and is dated since the date of the last general election, unless the document is intended to be of a permanent nature such as a pardon or discharge:

- › Utility bill;
- › Bank statement;
- › Government check;
- › Government paycheck;
- › Document issued by a government agency;
- › Sample ballot or other official elections document issued by a governmental agency, dated for the election in which the individual is providing it as proof of residency or identity;
- › Voter notification card issued by a governmental agency;
- › Public housing identification card issued by a governmental agency;
- › Lease or rental statement or agreement issued by a governmental agency;
- › Student identification card issued by a governmental agency;
- › Tuition statement or bill issued by a governmental agency;
- › Insurance plan card or drug discount card issued by a governmental agency;
- › Discharge certificates, pardons, or other official documents issued to the individual by a governmental agency in connection with the resolution of a criminal case, indictment, sentence; or other matter;
- › Public transportation authority senior citizen and disabled discount cards issued by a

- governmental agency;
- › Identification documents issued by governmental disability agencies;
- › Identification documents issued by government homeless shelters and other government temporary or transitional facilities;
- › Drug prescription issued by a government doctor or other governmental health care provider;
- › Property tax statement issued by a governmental agency;
- › Vehicle registration issued by a governmental agency;
- › Vehicle certificate of ownership issued by a governmental agency.

Also, you have the option of bringing one of the identifications listed above to the polling place on the day of the election, or mailing a copy of the identification to the local board of canvassers before the day of the election.

### **How do I know if I am properly registered to vote?**

When you register for the first time or change your address, your local board of canvassers will send you an acknowledgement notice at the address from which you registered. (You will also be notified by mail if your registration does not meet the requirements for any reason.)

If the Post Office cannot deliver the notice to the address you gave when you registered, your name will be placed on the “inactive” list and you may not be able to vote. If you do not receive the acknowledgement notice within three weeks, you should contact your local board of canvassers.

If you are not sure whether you have already registered, you can check with the board of canvassers in your hometown, or at the Voter Information Center on the Secretary of State’s website: [www.sos.ri.gov/vic](http://www.sos.ri.gov/vic)

### **Can I keep my home address secret?**

All the information on a voter registration form is public record except your driver’s license number and Social Security numbers. However, there is an exception for victims or potential victims of domestic violence.

If you have a court-ordered restraining order against another person to prevent domestic violence, you may vote without making your residence address part of a public record. An application and further details of the program can be obtained by contacting the Secretary of State’s Elections Division at 401-222-2340.

### **Are there additional resources describing the voter registration process?**

The Board of Elections has issued rules and regulations for voter registration. Copies may be obtained by calling their office at 401-222-2345 or on our website at [www.sos.ri.gov/archives](http://www.sos.ri.gov/archives).

# VOTING AT THE POLLS

## Where do I vote?

Your voting district is determined by your place of residence. Watch your local newspaper for an announcement indicating polling locations and times, or contact your local board of canvassers.

You may also obtain your polling place location on the Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.ri.gov/vic](http://www.sos.ri.gov/vic) or by calling the Secretary of State's Elections Division at 401-222-2340 or TYY 711.

## How do I identify myself at the polling place?

When you enter your polling place, state your name and address to one of the bi-partisan supervisors seated at the check-in table. You will be asked to provide proof of identification.

If your name is found on the voting list and your street address matches the voter list, the supervisor will give you a short ballot application. Sign the application.

If you live at a different address from the one shown for you on the voting list, or if you have been listed as "inactive" because mail sent to your listed address has been returned by the Post Office, you will need to fill out and sign an additional affirmation form before voting.

## When is an identification document required?

Beginning this year, poll workers will ask you to show a current and valid ID when you vote at your polling place. Voter ID strengthens the public's faith in the integrity of our elections by enabling poll workers to match a voter's face to the name they give at the polls.

**Acceptable Voter IDs:** Poll workers will accept the following valid and current Photo IDs:

- › RI driver's license
- › U.S. passport
- › ID card issued by an educational institution in the United States
- › U.S. military identification card
- › ID card issued by the U.S. government or State of Rhode Island like a RIPTA bus pass
- › Government-issued medical card
- › RI Voter ID
- › Employee ID card
- › ID card provided by a commercial establishment
- › Credit or debit card
- › Health club ID card
- › Insurance plan ID card
- › Public housing ID card

Voter ID will be phased in over two election cycles. In 2012 and 2013, poll workers will also accept certain non-Photo IDs. The ID must include your name and address as it appears in the poll book and be dated since Nov. 2, 2010, unless the document is intended to be of a permanent nature such as a birth certificate, Social Security card or a government issued medical card, then only your name is required. The IDs include:

- › Birth certificate
- › Social security card
- › Government-issued medical card
- › Utility bill
- › Bank statement
- › Document issued by a government agency
- › Lease or rental statement
- › Student ID
- › Tuition statement or bill
- › Insurance plan card

### **How to Obtain a Free ID?**

You will not need a Voter ID card if you already have a valid and current Photo ID. If you need a Voter ID, we will provide you with a free one. You must provide one of these types of current and valid IDs:

- › Employee ID card;
- › ID card provided by a commercial establishment;
- › Credit or debit card;
- › Military ID card;
- › Student ID card;
- › Health club ID card;
- › Insurance plan ID card;
- › Public housing ID card;

If you don't have one of those types of current and valid IDs, you must bring one of the following documents. It must include your name and be dated since November 2, 2010, unless the document is intended to be of a permanent nature such as a pardon or discharge:

- › Utility bill;
- › Bank statement;
- › Government paycheck;
- › Document issued by a government agency;

- › Official elections document issued by a government agency, dated for the election in which the registered voter is providing it as proof of identity;
- › Voter notification issued by a governmental agency;
- › Public housing ID card issued by a governmental agency;
- › Lease or rental statement or agreement issued by a governmental agency;
- › Student ID card issued by a governmental institution/agency or non-governmental institution/agency;
- › Tuition statement or bill issued by a governmental agency;
- › Insurance plan card or drug discount card issued by a government agency;
- › Discharge certificates, pardons, or other official documents issued to the registered voter by a governmental agency in connection with the resolution of a criminal case, indictment, sentence or other matter;
- › Public transit authority senior citizen and disabled discount ID card issued by a governmental agency;
- › ID documents issued by governmental disability agencies;
- › ID documents issued by homeless shelters and other temporary or transitional facilities;
- › Drug prescription issued by a government doctor or other governmental health care provider;
- › Property tax statement issued by a governmental agency;
- › Vehicle registration issued by a governmental agency; or
- › Vehicle certificate of ownership issued by a governmental agency

# PROVISIONAL VOTING

## **What if I know I am registered, but the officials can't find my name on the voter list?**

If you believe you were left off the list, do not have an acceptable form of identification, or otherwise prevented from regular voting by error, you will be allowed to cast a provisional ballot. First, you complete a provisional ballot application containing a statement that you are registered and eligible to vote. You then complete a ballot, which you seal inside the envelope provided with your provisional ballot. The envelope and your ballot go to election officials who will double-check and determine whether or not you are eligible to vote. If the official determines that you are eligible, your ballot will be counted with all other ballots in your polling place. The secrecy of your vote will be preserved at all times.

## **How will I know if my provisional ballot was counted?**

Your provisional ballot will be assigned a serial number, which will be provided to you before you leave the polling place. After 48 hours following the election, in most cases you will be able to check whether the ballot was counted or not by visiting the Board of Elections website at [www.elections.ri.gov](http://www.elections.ri.gov) or contacting your local board of canvassers.


# HOW TO CAST YOUR VOTE

## How do I get my ballot?

Once you state your name and address to the bipartisan supervisors, the supervisors will affix your label from the voting list onto a ballot application and ask you to sign the ballot application. After you sign your ballot application, the supervisors will initial your signature and provide you with the appropriate ballot and a paper cover, called a secrecy sleeve. The secrecy sleeve helps to ensure the privacy of your election choice.

The supervisor will send you to a voting booth where you can mark your ballot in private using the special pen provided inside the voting booth.

## What does the ballot look like?

The ballot is a large piece of paper, approximately 9 inches by 17 inches. You will see the names of the offices being elected with the names of the candidates and the party they represent listed underneath. You will see an open arrow like this:  to the right of each candidate's name. In addition to the elected offices and candidates, you will also see a number of "questions" that voters must decide. With each question you will see two open arrows next to the words "Approve" and "Reject."

Important: Be sure to check both sides of the ballot. Some elected offices or questions may appear on the back of the ballot.

You may get a "sample ballot" showing all of the elections and ballot questions as they will appear on the day of the election by visiting the Secretary of State's website: [www.sos.ri.gov/vic](http://www.sos.ri.gov/vic). Or, you may obtain a sample ballot from your local board of canvassers. Sample ballots are available approximately three weeks before the day of the election.

## What races can I expect to see on the November 6, 2012 Election ballot?

The first option on your ballot is the straight party option, which is discussed on page 12.

The names of the candidates for each federal and state race appear on the ballot with their party affiliation listed directly beneath their names. The federal and state races appear in the following order: President and Vice-President, Senator in Congress, Representative in Congress, State Senator and State Representative.





In most cities and towns, local races will appear next on the ballot. In some contests the names of the candidates appear on the ballot along with their party affiliation label. Some contests in cities and towns are labeled as "non-partisan" or "without party marks or designation" and in those cases, the candidate's party affiliation will not appear on the ballot.



Your local ballot may also include races where more than one individual is to be elected. In those cases you will see instructions such as “Vote for any 2” indicating that the voter may vote for up to 2 candidates in that race, “Vote for any 3” indicating that the voter may vote for up to 3 candidates in that race, and so forth.

The state constitutional amendments and questions, as applicable, are then listed on the ballot. In most cases, the questions start in the first column on the backside of the ballot. Where applicable, local questions follow the state constitutional amendments and questions and are printed on a yellow background. In some cases, questions will not fit on the backside of the ballot and you will be issued an additional ballot.

**How do I vote for a candidate whose name is on the ballot?**

Complete the arrow   pointing to your choice with a single bold line, like this:  

**What if the candidate I want to vote for does not appear on the ballot?**







A vote for someone not shown on the printed ballot is called a “write-in.” (The write-in option cannot be used during primary elections.)

**You must do two things to cast a “write-in” vote.**

- 1. Print the name of the person on the blank line labeled “write-in,” and
- 2. Complete the arrow pointing to the person’s name next to the write-in line.

**Here’s what a completed write-in vote should look like:**

<b>MAYOR</b>	
<b>FOUR YEAR TERM</b>	
<b>VOTE FOR 1</b>	
	Maria Nunez
	DEMOCRAT
	Albert Smith
	Independent
Write In	<i>Victor Rodríguez</i>

NOTE: Do not write in the names of candidates whose names already appear on your ballot as candidates for that race.

## **How do I vote for all the candidates of a single party (a “straight party” vote)?**

To cast a vote for all candidates of a single party in the general election, complete the arrow pointing to the party of your choice in the “straight party” section of the ballot.

This is called a “straight party” vote and is counted the same as if you had separately completed the arrows next to every candidate from that party on the entire ballot.

If you cast a straight party vote and also vote separately for an individual candidate or candidates for a certain office on the ballot, only the individual party candidate or candidates that you voted for separately will be counted for that office. The straight party vote will not be counted for that office, but it will still apply in all the offices you do not separately complete.

## **Reminder about “multiple vote” races and casting straight party votes.**

Races for some local offices allow you to vote for two or more candidates. If you cast a separate vote for an individual candidate in a “multiple vote” race, your “straight party vote” will **not** apply to any candidate in **that** race. If you intend to vote for more than one candidate in a multiple-vote race, be sure you complete the arrows next to every candidate you wish to vote for in that race.

## **Don’t forget “non-partisan” races and questions.**

Some elected offices and all ballot questions are “non-partisan.” That means that political parties do not run candidates or take positions on those races. Your straight party vote does not apply to non-partisan races or ballot questions. You must vote for the non-partisan races or ballot questions individually.

## **Be sure to check both sides of your ballot. Candidates and questions are often on the back side of the ballot.**

After marking your ballot, you will place it in the secrecy sleeve and proceed to the voting equipment. You will remove your ballot from the secrecy sleeve and insert your ballot into the voting equipment. Place the empty secrecy sleeve on top of the voting equipment.

## **What happens if I make a mistake when marking my ballot?**

You will be given a new ballot to start over. If you make a mistake, do not erase or cross out on the ballot and try to insert it in the voting equipment. Instead, bring your ballot to the clerk. The clerk will ask you to complete several additional arrows on the ballot. Your old ballot is then completely voided (and sealed to protect the privacy of your intended votes). The clerk will then give you a new ballot and direct you to a booth to complete it.

## **What happens if I vote for too many candidates?**

The voting equipment is programmed to return a ballot if you vote for more candidates than allowed by law. The polling place official will ask you to remove the ballot and take it to the clerk. The clerk will ask you to complete several additional arrows on the ballot. Your old ballot is then completely voided and sealed for your voting privacy. You will be given a new ballot and directed to a voting booth to complete it.

## **Can someone help me if I have any questions on marking my ballot?**

The clerk will explain how to mark it if you ask. The cover of the secrecy sleeve and the inside wall of the voting booth will also contain instructions on how to mark a ballot.

You may also take this booklet or any other materials into the booth to assist you in voting.

You can request the assistance of a bi-partisan pair of supervisors. Federal and state law allows voters who are blind, disabled or unable to read or write to bring a person of their choice into the booth. The warden will have an affidavit that must be completed.

## **What is a “primary” election and how is it different from a “general” election?**

Primaries are elections held by political parties, usually in the month of September, to decide who will represent that party in the later general election, which takes place in November of election years. The primary allows eligible voters to decide which party candidate shall represent them in the general election. The winner of the primary election must still compete with other candidates in the following general election.

## **What must I do in order to vote in a primary?**

To vote in a primary, you must be a registered voter.

If your voter registration record indicates that you are unaffiliated you may choose in which primary you wish to vote. As soon as you vote in a primary, you are automatically affiliated with that party. If you wish to preserve your ability to vote in any other primary in the future, request a “disaffiliation” form from poll officials and fill it out on the spot to return to your unaffiliated status in 90 days.

If you are affiliated with any political party, you may not vote in another party’s primary.

## **How do I establish and change my party affiliation?**

You have the option of “affiliating” with any recognized political party or not affiliating with any party (registering “unaffiliated”) at the time you register to vote.

You may change your recorded affiliation to a different party or to unaffiliated at any time by

visiting your board of canvassers or by completing a RI Voter Registration form indicating your party preference.

However, if you want to change your party affiliation so that you can vote in another party's primary, the change must be filed at least 90 days before the primary. The deadline for disaffiliation for the 2012 primary on September 11 was June 13.

### **What special accommodations have been made for elderly, disabled and visually impaired voters?**

- › In accordance with the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and state law, the State has purchased an accessible voting unit (AutoMark) for every polling place in Rhode Island. The AutoMark will be available at each polling place for every primary or election conducted under Rhode Island General Laws, Title 17. All registered voters are automatically entitled to use the accessible voting equipment located at each polling place – no special applications are required.

When the registered voter arrives at the polling place, the voter will proceed to the check-in table and will identify himself/herself. Voter will tell supervisors at the table that the voter wants to use the AutoMark to assist in casting his/her ballot. Voter will be given a ballot and a secrecy sleeve and directed to the AutoMark unit. Voter will cast votes on ballot through the use of this accessible marking device and will then deposit his/her ballot into the tabulation device at the polling place.

- › Each polling place will have at least one handicapped-accessible voting booth designated for priority use by voters over 65 years of age or disabled. Other voters may use the voting booth only when there are no disabled voters or voters over the age of 65 waiting to vote.
- › Each polling place will be equipped with a sheet magnifier to assist voters who are visually impaired.

### **What can I do if my polling place is not accessible to voters with disabilities?**

If you are a voter with a disability and the polling location where you are assigned to vote is inaccessible to you, you can notify the local board of canvassers at least 5 days in advance and they will arrange an alternate means to allow you to cast your vote. Addresses and telephone numbers for local boards of canvassers are listed on page 23.

# VOTING BY MAIL BALLOT

If you will be unable to vote at your polling place, you may request a mail ballot. Note that you must file an application for a mail ballot at least three weeks before the day of the election.

## **Am I eligible to vote by mail ballot?**

To cast a mail ballot, you must be unable to vote in person for one of these reasons:

1. You are physically unable to vote in a polling place because of illness or physical or mental disability.
2. You are confined to a nursing home, convalescent home or hospital within the State of RI.
3. You are a military or overseas voter away due to employment or service connected with military operations or because you are a spouse or legal dependent who lives with that person or you are a U.S. citizen who will be outside the United States.
4. You might not be able to vote at your polling place on the day of the election.

## **How do I apply for a mail ballot?**

Obtain an application from your local board of canvassers, Board of Elections, Office of the Secretary of State, or online at [www.sos.ri.gov](http://www.sos.ri.gov). Your application must be received at least 21 days before the election.

## **Mail ballot application deadlines:**

For the September 11, 2012 Primary: August 21, 2012.

For the November 6, 2012 Election: October 16, 2012.

If you are permanently disabled, you may arrange to have mail ballot applications (not the actual ballots) mailed to you automatically. Contact your local board of canvassers.

## **How do I apply for a Braille or tactile mail ballot?**

Voters who are blind, visually impaired or disabled may apply for a Braille or tactile mail ballot. In order to apply for a Braille or tactile mail ballot, you must be a registered voter in Rhode Island and must apply in writing for a special Braille or tactile mail ballot. The application must be filed with the local board of canvassers at least 45 days before the date of the election for which you are requesting a mail ballot. The request will be valid for mail ballots for all elections held during the calendar year in which the request was received and in which you are eligible to participate. Note: you must also fill out a mail ballot application for each primary or election in addition to the application for a Braille or tactile mail ballot.

The deadline to apply for a Braille or tactile mail ballot for the September 11, 2012 Primary is July 30, 2012; the deadline for the November 6, 2012 Election is September 24, 2012.

You can use the form prepared by the Office of the Secretary of State, or you can apply in writing without using the form as long as the communication includes the following information:

- › Your name and registered address.
- › Daytime telephone number.
- › Indication of whether this request is for the entire calendar year or only for the next upcoming election.
- › Your party affiliation if the request is also for a primary.
- › Indicate the special ballot format desired: Braille Grade I, Braille Grade II or tactile.
- › Your signature on the form.

### **What if I have an emergency and I can't vote in person?**

If emergency circumstances arise after the regular mail ballot application deadline, you may apply for an emergency mail ballot at your local board of canvassers. Emergency mail ballot applications are available and may be submitted until 4 p.m. on the day before the primary or election.

Your emergency mail ballot must be received by the Board of Elections, 50 Branch Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island 02904 no later than 9 p.m. on the day of the election.

### **What are my rights as a voter?**

Your right to vote freely is the cornerstone of citizenship. You have the right to...

- › **Keep who you vote for a secret**

Your voter registration and some other voting documents, like a mail ballot application, are public records. But, no one, not even election officials, can find out who you voted for once your ballot is accepted.

- › **Cast a provisional ballot if you are registered to vote, even if your name does not appear on the voter list.**

You have the right to request a provisional ballot if you are a qualified registered voter and your name cannot be found on the voter list when you arrive at your designated polling place on the day of the election or you don't bring a current and valid acceptable ID to your polling place.

- › **Vote by mail ballot if you cannot vote in person.**

To request a mail ballot application, please visit the Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.ri.gov](http://www.sos.ri.gov) or contact us at 401-222-2340, you may also contact your local board of canvassers or the Board of Elections.

› **Vote for President and Vice President even if you did not register in time.**

Even if you did not meet the registration deadline, you may vote for President and Vice President ONLY. Inquire about same-day registration at your local board of canvassers.

› **Have assistance in the voting booth on the day of the election.**

You can request the assistance of a bi-partisan pair of supervisors. Federal and state law allows voters who are blind, disabled or unable to read or write to bring a person of their choice into the booth. The warden will have an affidavit that must be completed.

**What violates state election law?**

Any attempt to interfere with your right to vote or unduly influence your vote is a crime. It is a crime to try to make you vote in a certain way by making threats or offering gifts. It is also against the law to force you to reveal your vote once made. Contact your local board of canvassers if anyone tries to interfere with your voting rights.

It is also against the law for you to make any false statements on your voter registration or ballot application. Voting or trying to vote when you are not eligible, or helping another person to vote fraudulently are crimes punishable by law.

# OTHER WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS

## How can I help other people register to vote?

You can help others register to vote by hosting a voter registration drive.

You may pick up voter registration forms at the Board of Elections and return the completed forms to the same office:

Board of Elections  
50 Branch Avenue  
Providence, RI 02904

Or, call the Secretary of State's Elections Division at 401-222-2340 for assistance in organizing a voter registration event. You may also visit our website at [www.sos.ri.gov](http://www.sos.ri.gov) to obtain free educational materials.

## What are some other ways I can exercise my rights as a citizen?

Elections and voting are just part of the democratic process. You also have the right to participate in election campaigns and in the day-to-day decisions of government between elections.

## Political activism

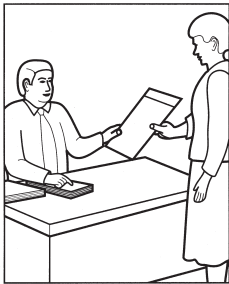
You have the right to speak out for causes you believe in and work for the political candidates you prefer. You can:

- › Belong to a political party or political action committee.
- › Belong to a cause-related group.
- › Attend a political rally.

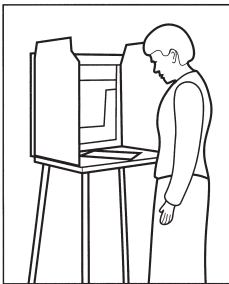


# VOTING EQUIPMENT

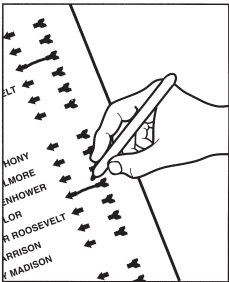
## STEPS TO VOTING



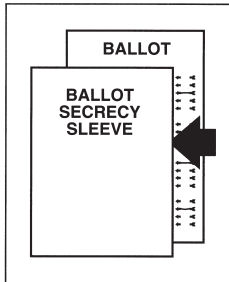
1. Receive ballot and secrecy sleeve from the clerk.



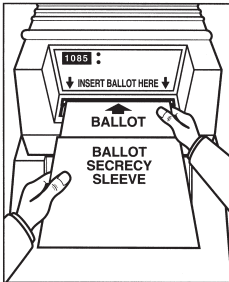
2. Go to the voting booth to mark your ballot in private.



3. Mark your ballot by completing the arrow pointing to the candidates for whom you wish to vote.

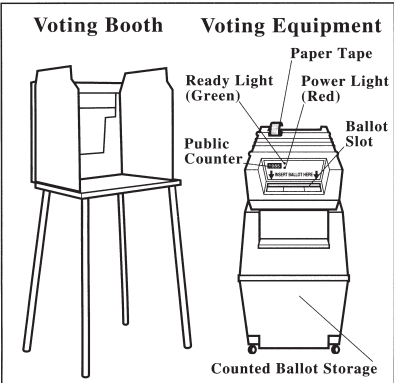


4. Insert your ballot into secrecy sleeve and go to the voting equipment.



5. Remove ballot from secrecy sleeve and insert your ballot in the voting equipment.

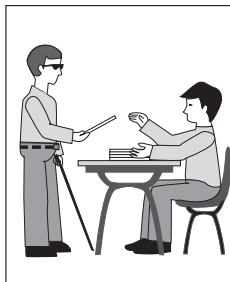
Voting is complete.



**NOTE**  
If you make a mistake, do not erase or cross out on the ballot. Bring the ballot to the clerk. In order to protect the secrecy of your intended vote, the clerk will ask you to complete several additional arrows on the ballot. The clerk will then issue a new ballot.

# AUTOMARK VOTING EQUIPMENT

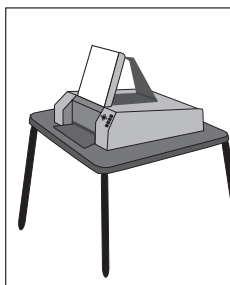
## STEPS TO VOTING



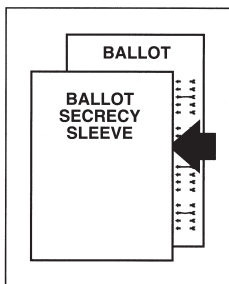
**1. Receive ballot and secrecy sleeve from the clerk.**



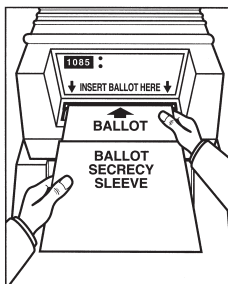
**2. Go to the Auto-Mark booth to mark your ballot in private.**



**3. Mark your ballot by placing it into the AutoMark unit. Follow audio instructions and make selections by using the keypad or touch-screen.**

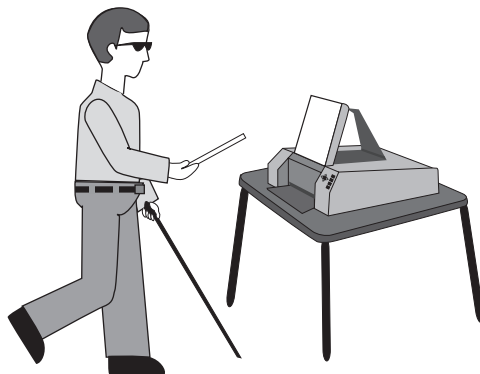


**4. Insert your ballot into secrecy sleeve and go to the voting equipment.**



**5. Remove ballot from secrecy sleeve and insert your ballot in the voting equipment.**

**Voting is complete.**



# SAMPLE OF THE FRONT OF BALLOT\*

\* this sample ballot is for illustrative purposes only. It does not reflect the actual races and candidates that will be on your ballot in 2012.

Precinct ID 0101  
Congressional District 1  
Representative District 87  
Voting District 1  
Senate District 44

0

1

OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOT  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
TOWN OF BARRINGTON  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2000

1. To vote:  
Complete the arrow(s) ← pointing to your choice(s) with a single bold line, like this ←

2. To vote for a write-in candidate not on the ballot:  
Print the name on the line provided for the office and complete the arrow ← pointing to your write-in choice like this ←

3. To cast a straight party vote:

and only the individual candidate or candidates voted for will be counted for that office.

STRAIGHT PARTY To vote a "Straight Ticket" complete the arrow pointing to the party of your choice.	SENATOR IN CONGRESS Six Year Term Vote for 1	MODERATOR Two Year Term Vote for 1
COOL MOOSE ←	Lincoln D. CHAFEE REPUBLICAN ←	Allan C. KLEPPER REPUBLICAN ←
REPUBLICAN ←	Robert A. WEYGAND DEMOCRAT ←	Write In ←
DEMOCRAT ←	Christopher YOUNG REFORM ←	TOWN COUNCIL Four Year Term Vote for any 3
REFORM ←	Kenneth P. PROULX Independent ←	Charles R. BRULE REPUBLICAN ←
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS FOR:	Write In ←	Anthony P. ARICO DEMOCRAT ←
President George W. BUSH ←	REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 1 Two Year Term Vote for 1	Anthony L. DePASQUALE REPUBLICAN ←
Vice President Dick CHENEY REPUBLICAN ←	Stephen CABRAL REPUBLICAN ←	Timothy J. MORGAN DEMOCRAT ←
President Al GORE ←	Patrick J. KENNEDY DEMOCRAT ←	Mark J. GILLOOLY REPUBLICAN ←
Vice President Joe LIEBERMAN DEMOCRAT ←	Write In ←	Write In ←
President Pat BUCHANAN ←	SENATOR IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 44 Two Year Term Vote for 1	Write In ←
Vice President Ezola FOSTER REFORM ←	David E. BATES REPUBLICAN ←	SCHOOL COMMITTEE Four Year Term Vote for any 3
President John HAGELIN ←	Write In ←	Patrick A. GUIDA REPUBLICAN ←
Vice President Nat GOLDBABER Natural Law Party ←	REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 87 Two Year Term Vote for 1	Pamela L. FISHER DEMOCRAT ←
President Monica MOOREHEAD ←	John A. SAVAGE REPUBLICAN ←	Robert E. HENRY REPUBLICAN ←
Vice President Gloria LA RIVA Workers World Party ←	Mary A. GASBARRO DEMOCRAT ←	Emanuel V. LAURIA REPUBLICAN ←
President Harry BROWNE ←	Write In ←	Write In ←
Vice President Art OLIVIER Libertarian Party ←		Write In ←
President Ralph NADER ←		Write In ←
Vice President Winona LaDUKE Green Party ←		Write In ←
President David McREYNOLDS ←		Write In ←
Vice President Mary Cal HOLLIS Socialist Party ←		Write In ←
President James HARRIS ←		
Vice President Margaret TROWE Socialist Workers Party ←		
President Howard PHILLIPS ←		
Vice President J. Curtis FRAZIER Constitution Party ←		
Write In ←		
Write In ←		

VOTE BOTH FRONT AND  
BACK OF BALLOT

# SAMPLE OF THE BACK OF BALLOT\*

\* this sample ballot is for illustrative purposes only. It does not reflect the actual races and candidates that will be on your ballot in 2012.

STATE QUESTIONS	STATE QUESTIONS
<div>1. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BONDS \$34,000,000 (CHAPTER 55 - PUBLIC LAWS 2000)  Approval of this question will authorize the State of Rhode Island to issue general obligation bonds and refunding bonds in an amount not to exceed \$34,000,000 for environmental and recreational purposes, specifically, the acquisition of open space for preservation and ground water protection and the development of public recreational facilities.</div> <div>Question 1 APPROVE</div> <div>Question 1 REJECT</div>	<div>5. HERITAGE HARBOR MUSEUM BONDS \$25,000,000 (CHAPTER 55 - PUBLIC LAWS 2000)  Approval of this question will authorize the State of Rhode Island to issue general obligation bonds and refunding bonds in an amount not to exceed \$25,000,000 for the creation, design, construction, furnishing and equipping of the Heritage Harbor Museum.</div> <div>Question 5 APPROVE</div> <div>Question 5 REJECT</div>
<div>2. RHODE ISLAND CLEAN WATER FINANCE AGENCY - WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT BONDS \$60,000,000 (CHAPTER 55 - PUBLIC LAWS 2000)  Approval of this question will authorize the State of Rhode Island to issue general obligation bonds and refunding bonds in an amount not to exceed \$60,000,000 to provide funding for the Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency which will be leveraged with federal and state capitalization grants to provide loans at a subsidized rate of zero percent to municipalities, governmental entities and non-governmental entities for the construction, repair, equipping and upgrading of water pollution abatement projects including, but not limited to, wastewater treatment facilities, nutrient reduction, sewers, combined sewer overflow systems, restoration of aquatic habitats, and stormwater treatment and to provide subsidized interest rate loans to community water systems, both privately and publicly owned, and non-profit non-community water systems for drinking water projects.</div> <div>Question 2 APPROVE</div> <div>Question 2 REJECT</div>	<div>6. QUESTION PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNOR (RHODE ISLAND GENERAL LAWS SECTION 17-5-6)  CO-EQUAL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT (ADVISORY REFERENDUM)  Should a Constitutional Convention be called to expressly establish that Rhode Island government consists of separate and co-equal legislative, executive, and judicial branches similar to the governments established by the United States Constitution and by the Constitutions of all 49 other states?</div> <div>Question 6 APPROVE</div> <div>Question 6 REJECT</div>
<div>3. TRANSPORTATION BONDS \$62,510,000 (CHAPTER 55 - PUBLIC LAWS 2000)  Approval of this question will authorize the State of Rhode Island to issue general obligation bonds and refunding bonds in an amount not to exceed \$62,510,000 to match federal funds and fund improvements to the State's highways, roads and bridges and to purchase buses for the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority's fleet.</div> <div>Question 3 APPROVE</div> <div>Question 3 REJECT</div>	
<div>4. HIGHER EDUCATION BONDS \$36,950,000 (CHAPTER 55 - PUBLIC LAWS 2000)  Approval of this question will authorize the State of Rhode Island to issue general obligation bonds and refunding bonds in an amount not to exceed \$36,950,000 to fund improvements to the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College and the Community College of Rhode Island.</div> <div>Question 4 APPROVE</div> <div>Question 4 REJECT</div>	

# CONTACT INFORMATION

## LOCAL BOARDS OF CANVASSERS

›Barrington Town Hall, 283 County Rd.	247-1900
›Bristol Town Hall, 10 Court St.	253-7000
›Burrillville Town Hall, 105 Harrisville Main St., Harrisville	568-4300
›Central Falls City Hall, 580 Broad St.	727-7450
›Charlestown Town Hall, 4540 South County Trl.	364-1200
›Coventry Town Hall, 1670 Flat River Rd.	822-9150
›Cranston City Hall, 869 Park Ave.	780-3126
›Cumberland Town Hall, 45 Broad St.	728-2400
›East Greenwich Town Hall, 125 Main St.	886-8603
›East Providence City Hall, 145 Taunton Ave.	435-7502
›Exeter Town Hall, 675 Ten Rod Rd.	294-2287
›Foster Town Hall, 181 Howard Hill Rd.	392-9201
›Glocester Town Hall, 1145 Putnam Pike	568-6206
›Hopkinton Town Hall, 1 Town House Rd.	377-7777
›Jamestown Town Hall, 93 Narragansett Ave.	423-9804
›Johnston Town Hall, 1385 Hartford Ave.	553-8856
›Lincoln Town Hall, 100 Old River Rd.	333-1140
›Little Compton Town Hall, 40 Commons	635-4400
›Middletown Town Hall, 350 East Main Rd.	849-5540
›Narragansett Town Hall, 25 Fifth Ave.	782-0625
›Newport City Hall, 43 Broadway	845-5386
›New Shoreham Town Hall, Old Town Rd., P.O. Box 220	466-3200
›North Kingstown Town Hall, 80 Boston Neck Rd.	294-3331
›North Providence Town Hall, 2000 Smith St.	232-0900
›North Smithfield Town Hall, 575 Smithfield Rd.	767-2200
›Pawtucket City Hall, 137 Roosevelt Ave.	728-0500
›Portsmouth Town Hall, 2200 East Main Rd.	683-3157
›Providence City Hall, 25 Dorrance St.	421-0495
›Richmond Town Hall, 5 Richmond Townhouse Rd.	539-9000
›Scituate Town Hall, 195 Danielson Pike, North Scituate	647-7466
›Smithfield Town Hall, 64 Farnum Pike, Esmond	233-1000
›South Kingstown Town Hall, 180 High St., Wakefield	789-9331
›Tiverton Town Hall, 343 Highland Rd.	625-6703
›Warren Town Hall, 514 Main St.	245-7340
›Warwick City Hall, 3275 Post Rd.	738-2000
›West Greenwich Town Hall, 280 Victory Hwy.	392-3800
›West Warwick Town Hall, 1170 Main St.	822-9201
›Westerly Town Hall, 45 Broad St.	348-2503
›Woonsocket City Hall, 169 Main St.	767-9223

# SCHEDULES FOR POLLING PLACES FOR PRIMARY AND ELECTION DAY

City Town	Primary Schedule	Election Day Schedule
Barrington	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Bristol	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Burrillville	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Central Falls	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Charlestown	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Coventry	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Cranston	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Cumberland	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
East Greenwich	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
East Providence	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Exeter	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Foster	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Glocester	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Hopkinton	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Jamestown	8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Johnston	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Lincoln	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Little Compton	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Middletown	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Narragansett	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Newport	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
New Shoreham	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
North Kingstown	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
North Providence	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
North Smithfield	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Pawtucket	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Portsmouth	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Providence	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Richmond	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Scituate	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Smithfield	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
South Kingstown	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Tiverton	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Warren	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Warwick	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
West Greenwich	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
West Warwick	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Westerly	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Woonsocket	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

# CONTACT INFORMATION STATE ELECTIONS AND POLITICAL PARTY OFFICES

## › Office of the Secretary of State

Elections Division

148 W. River St., Providence, RI 02904 222-2340

## › Board of Elections

50 Branch Ave., Providence, RI 02904 222-2345

## › Rhode Island Democrat Party

151 Broadway, Suite 310, Providence, RI 02903 272-3367

## › Moderate Party of Rhode Island

175 Metro Centre Blvd. # 7, Warwick, RI 02886 681-4966

## › Rhode Island Republican Party

1800 Post Rd. Suite 17-I, Warwick, RI 02886 732-8282

## › Americans Elect

P.O. Box 27875, Washington, DC 20038 202-223-5152

# INFORMATION AVAILABLE SECRETARY OF STATE'S WEBSITE

The following information concerning the 2012 election cycle is posted at [www.sos.ri.gov](http://www.sos.ri.gov).

- › 2012 Election Calendar - English
- › 2012 Election Calendar - Spanish
- › 2012 How to Run for Office Guide - English
- › 2012 How to Run for Office Guide - Spanish
- › 2012 How to Register and Vote Guide - English
- › 2012 How to Register and Vote Guide - Spanish
- › Qualified Candidates: Candidates who filed and/or qualified for ballot placement
- › Sample ballots
- › Find your polling place
- › Mail Ballot Applications
- › Voter Referenda Handbook - Available September 2012